

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AF-10
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4114
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08331

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MISSING TEXT PARA 3 LINE 4)

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, EC, XA
SUBJECT: MAY 17-18 EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS DISCUSSION OF
AFRICA

1. THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE TOOK NOTE THAT THE WORKING
GROUP WOULD COMPLETE ITS STUDY ON SOUTH AFRICA BEFORE THE
NEXT POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING JUNE 14-15. THE
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PRESIDENCY BELIEVES THAT THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE
PROGRESS IN FORMULATING DECENT CONCLUSIONS WITH REGARD TO
THE NINE'S POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA AND THAT SOMETHING
WORTHWHILE WILL EMERGE FROM THIS EXERCISE.

2. ON NAMIBIA, THE WORKING GROUP WAS ASKED TO HAVE
READY BY THE NEXT MEETING A SUGGESTED DRAFT REPLY TO

SOUTH AFRICA'S NOTE OF MARCH 11. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE NINE'S REPLY SHOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF WHAT THE FIVE POWERS HAVE BEEN DOING CONCERNING NAMIBIA. SOME POLITICAL DIRECTORS SUGGESTED THAT THE EC'S REPLY SHOULD REFER ONLY INFERENTIALLY TO THE CONTACT GROUP'S EFFORTS BUT OTHERS SAID THAT THAT WAS UNREALISTIC AND WOULD SIMPLY CONFUSE THE SOUTH AFRICANS.

3. THE SITUATIONS IN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE WERE BRIEFLY DISCUSSED AND THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE DIRECTED THE EXPERTS TO KEEP CLOSE WATCH ON EVENTS THERE. THE PRESIDENCY INFORMED THE NINE THAT ON MAY 14 THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF ZAIRE HAD EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN KINSHASA FOR THE EC'S APRIL 18 STATEMENT ON AFRICA.

4. THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE DIRECTED THE WORKING GROUP TO COMPLETE ITS REPORT ON THE HORN AND DRAW SOME GENERAL CONCLUSIONS. THE FRENCH ACCEPTED THE IDEA OF ANALYSIS BUT RESISTED THE PROPOSITION THAT CONCLUSIONS SHOULD BE DRAWN.

5. THE PRESIDENCY BRIEFED THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS ON THE ZAMBIAN-RHODESIAN BORDER SITUATION AND DESCRIBED THE MESSAGES BETWEEN OWEN AND CALLAGHAN, AND KAUNDA. THE PRESIDENCY CIRCULATED AN ASSESSMENT WHICH CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE RHODESIAN THREAT TO ZAMBIA NOR WAS ANOTHER RHODESIAN ATTACK ON BOTSWANA LIKELY. IN UK VIEW, CONFIDENTIAL

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SOUTH AFRICA WOULD JOIN US AND UK EFFORTS TO CONVINCE THE RHODESIANS TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT. THE FRG SAID THAT SCHMIDT HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM KAUNDA ON THE THREATENED RHODESIAN ATTACK AND ASKED IF OTHERS HAD GOTTEN SIMILAR MESSAGES. THERE WERE NONE.

6. RESPONDING TO A DUTCH QUESTION ABOUT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE, THE BRITISH STRESSED THAT UK AND US EFFORTS TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM WERE BEING PRESSED ON AND HE NOTED THAT THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP WAS ALREADY IN THE AREA.

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